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In re Patent Application of)
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Grant SIMONDS) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
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Application No.: Unassigned) Examiner: Unassigned
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Filed: Herewith)
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For: Improved Method and System of) Effecting a Financial Transaction)

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CLAIM FOR CONVENTION PRIORITY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The benefit of the filing date of the following prior foreign application in the following foreign country is hereby requested, and the right of priority provided in 35 U.S.C. § 119 is hereby claimed:

Austrailian Patent Application No. PQ9524

Filed: August 18, 2000

In support of this claim, enclosed is a certified copy of the prior foreign application. The prior foreign application was referred to in the oath or declaration. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date August 17, 2001

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Patent Office
Canberra

I, JONNE YABSLEY, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. PQ 9524 for a patent by TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET LM ERICSSON filed on 18 August 2000.

WITNESS my hand this
Twenty-fifth day of July 2001

JONNE YABSLEY
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES

P/00/009 28/5/91
Regulation 3.2

AUSTRALIA

Patents Act 1990

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Invention Title: IMPROVED METHOD AND SYSTEM OF EFFECTING A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION

The invention is described in the following statement:

IMPROVED METHOD AND SYSTEM OF EFFECTING A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION

FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to the field of electronic commerce, particularly financial transactions carried out by electronic means, such as the buying or selling of goods/services using portable or handheld electronic means. In one particular form, the present invention relates to electronic ticketing, and proof of purchase via a mobile phone or other portable device.

BACKGROUND ART

There is a large body of prior art that relates to various ticketing systems and especially e-ticketing systems. A still relatively large body of prior art relates to these types of ticketing and financial transaction systems using mobile phone technology as at least a part of the overall system.

However, the majority of these disclosures outline various communication systems for effecting electronic transactions in which an email or an alphanumeric or coded receipt number is transmitted to the mobile phone and is used to confirm that the transaction is completed. Example disclosures can be found in US 5,948,040. US 5920826 and US 5608778

There also exists a large body of prior art disclosures that deal with alternate barcode technology. This is a relatively well-established art. In this respect, the barcode sometimes performs a number of various functions or tasks. An example is US 4850009. In some of the art, bar-coding is used for recording telephone numbers in which the barcode was only used for storage and required a plug-in bar-code reader to interact with the phone. These patents related more to dialing methods.

In much of the other barcode related prior art, the disclosures are directed to a paper based technology, and thus the disclosures related to financial transactions relates to a paper ticket form of ticket or coupon upon which the barcode is actually printed.

When tickets for events (such as sport or theatre) have been purchased using E-Commerce there is a need to print out a ticket on paper prior to entering the venue so that the venue staff can verify that the patron has paid the entry fee.

In some cases this printed ticket includes a bar code so that the venue staff can use an electronic verification system to quickly check that the ticket is unique.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

According to one aspect, the present invention provides a method of providing a purchaser with a confirmation of a transaction including the step of providing the purchaser with an electronic machine-readable image, such that the electronic image may be displayed on the screen of a portable or handheld electronic device to verify the transaction.

The image may be a displayable and visually readable indicia.

According to another aspect, the present invention provides a system comprising a transaction validation device for issuing an electronic machine-readable image in response to a financial transaction; network interface means; and portable or handheld electronic device for receiving the electronic machine-readable image for display on a screen of the portable or handheld electronic device to verify the transaction.

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method of verifying a purchase of goods/services, such as tickets to an entertainment event including the step of scanning a machine-readable image which is electronically displayed on a portable or handheld electronic device such that access to the goods/services will be provided where the scanning step confirms the purchase or ordering of the goods/services.

In essence, this idea of this invention is to display machine-readable images, such as, but not limited to, barcodes on portable electronic devices, such as mobile phones as verification of a commercial transaction.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 illustrates a barcode displayable in relation to the present invention,

Figures 2a, 2b and 2c illustrate a barcode displayed on a number of different portable devices according to an embodiment of the present invention,

Figure 3 illustrates an overall schematic of an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

According to a first embodiment of the present invention, a mechanism for purchasing tickets for events, such as a sports event or a theatre event. The actual purchase of the tickets may take place by any means, although the present invention is particularly suited to e-commerce transactions.

In this regard, once a user has requested purchase of tickets and payment, such as by credit, has been verified by the vendor, a machine-readable image will be electronically generated by or on behalf of the vendor and made available to the user. Preferably this machine-readable image is a barcode.

The barcode (figure 1) would be provided to the user in an electronic format so that it may be displayed on the user's portable electronic device, such as a personal digital assistance (PDA), mobile terminal or a mobile telephone. It is to be noted that any form of displayable and visually readable device or indicia could be used in accordance with the present invention The barcode, which is one embodiment only of displayable and visually readable indicia, may be sent wirelessly to the user's portable device using WAP (wireless application protocol) or it may be sent to any other location nominated by the user, such as to an email account. In this regard the barcode would be sent to such a location as an image file. From the email account, the user would be able to transfer the electronic barcode to their portable electronic device.

Once available on the user's portable device, the user may use the electronic barcode as an electronic ticket at the event venue. In this regard, and with reference to Figures 2a, 2b and 2c, the user would display the barcode on the screen of the electronic device. The displayed barcode may then be scanned by a barcode reader at the point of ticket verification, such as when entering the event venue, as confirmation of the ticket purchase. The Figures merely illustrate a number of different devices with which the present invention can be used. The present invention is not to be limited to only these devices and can be used on any device having a display associated therewith, whether integral or linked separately.

In this regard, the user may simply present the displayed electronic ticket to an attendant with a bar code reader in order to gain entry to the venue, or an automated system may be in place at the venue.

Therefore it is apparent that the present invention eliminates the need for paper tickets to be printed and sent to purchasers. This is particularly advantageous when it is considered that paper tickets may be easily misplaced by the purchaser. Also the present invention eliminates the time delay in sending paper tickets to purchasers or in the purchaser queuing to pick up paper tickets before entering an event venue.

Further, the present invention may be particularly advantageous to a person who is running late for an entertainment event and wants to purchase tickets on the way to the event. If their portable electronic device is WAP enabled, they would be able to use the device to remotely purchase a ticket, such as from an Internet site or through a phone booking service. Once the purchase had been verified by the vendor, a barcode would be wirelessly transmitted to the user's portable electronic device as confirmation of the purchase. Then, when the person enters the venue, the screen of the electronic device displaying the barcode is presented for scanning as verification that the person has purchased a ticket.

Equally, the present invention may be used to purchase tickets or other goods and / or services on-line from a vendor using the mobile terminal. The ticket purchase may include a redemption of a token or other reward. The indicia associated with the present invention may also form a part or all of the token.

The indicia may be transferred to the electronic device using a suitable electronic transmission system, such as , but not limited to, WAP, http, ftp, or other internetworking protocol.

Furthermore, the present invention may be used to purchase, say, a cricket bat on-line. The E-transaction can be done on-line, even remote from the venue where the cricket bat is to be collected. The barcode or indicia can be transmitted to the users mobile phone. The user can then present the indicia displayed on the phone at the point of collection, and collect the cricket bat.

The present invention not only has application to the verification of tickets for sporting, entertainment events, or other goods and / or services, but may also be used in any other situation where indicia are generated and only have a short lifetime, such as shipping packages. Also, the indicia associated with the present invention may be used as a receipt of transactions (whether electronic or 'over the counter'), the receipt being forwarded after the transaction has been accepted.

Turning to Figure 3, an overall system diagram is schematically represented, and which includes some brief detail of signal flow related to the present invention.

Generally, a person may use a mobile terminal or other device 33, via network 32 to seek to purchase goods and / or services 35. A purchase request 36 is forwarded to a ticketing centre or other vendor such as a financial institution 31 which, in turn authorises 37 the purchase. A barcode or other v displayable and visually readable indicia 38 is forwarded for use as a receipt or other proof of purchase by the user. A reader 34 suitable for scanning the indicia displayed on the mobile terminal is used to enable exchange of the goods and / or services between vendor and user.

According to another embodiment of the invention, a person may purchase goods from an online store. Then, instead of the goods being delivered by courier, which typically takes a few days for delivery, the purchaser may nominate to pick up the goods from a "bricks-and-mortar" retailer, thereby still enjoying the cost saving typically provided by buying goods on-line. Further, it may be more convenient for the purchaser to pick up the goods from an actual store in their own time.

As confirmation of the purchase, the online retailer would send to the purchaser a machine-readable image/code, such as a barcode. This barcode may once again be sent directly to the purchaser's portable electronic device, such as their mobile phone, or sent to the user by any other electronic means, so that the barcode may be transferred to the mobile phone. The purchaser would then use the barcode at the bricks and mortar retailer to verify the purchase and provide a list of the purchased goods for collection.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, at a point of sale, a user could use a mobile device to transfer funds or pay for goods by purchasing a barcode of specified value, which could be scanned by a trader and redeemed for the specified value. This barcode could be purchased on-line and displayed on a mobile device. This is represented in Figure 3 by way of signals 40 and 41, although it would be understood that the exact signals, their purpose and number/sequence would vary in accordance with the type of application to which the present invention is put. Nonetheless, in these alternate uses of the present invention, the principle of using a displayable and visually readable indicia, where a barcode, symbol or other indicia.

This embodiment of the invention increases the security of the transaction because the trader must scan the barcode and this guarantees that the purchaser is authenticated properly.

Variations and additions are possible within the general inventive concept as will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method of providing a purchaser with a confirmation of a transaction including the steps of:

providing the purchaser with an electronic machine-readable image, such that the electronic image may be displayed on the screen of a portable or handheld electronic device to verify the transaction.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic machine-readable image is an electronic barcode or other displayable and visually readable indicia.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the machine readable image is transmitted directly to a portable or handheld electronic device, such as via WAP.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the portable device is a mobile phone.

5. A system including:

a transaction validation device for issuing an electronic machine-readable image in response to a financial transaction;

network interface means;

portable or handheld electronic device for receiving the electronic machine-readable image for display on a screen of the portable or handheld electronic device to verify the transaction.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein the electronic machine-readable image is a barcode.

7. The system of claim 5 wherein the portable or handheld electronic device is a mobile phone.

8. A method of verifying a purchase of goods, such as tickets to an entertainment event including the steps of:

scanning a machine-readable image which is electronically displayed on a portable or handheld electronic device such that access to the goods will be provided where the scanning step confirms the purchase of the goods.

9. A method or device as herein disclosed.

DATED this 18th day of August 2000

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Fig 1.

Fig 2a.

Fig 2b.

Fig 2c.

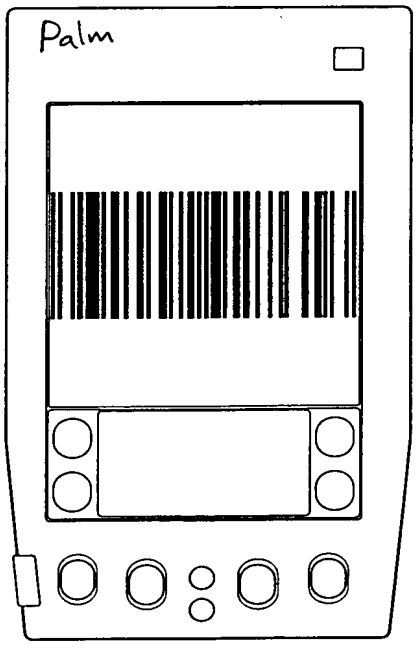
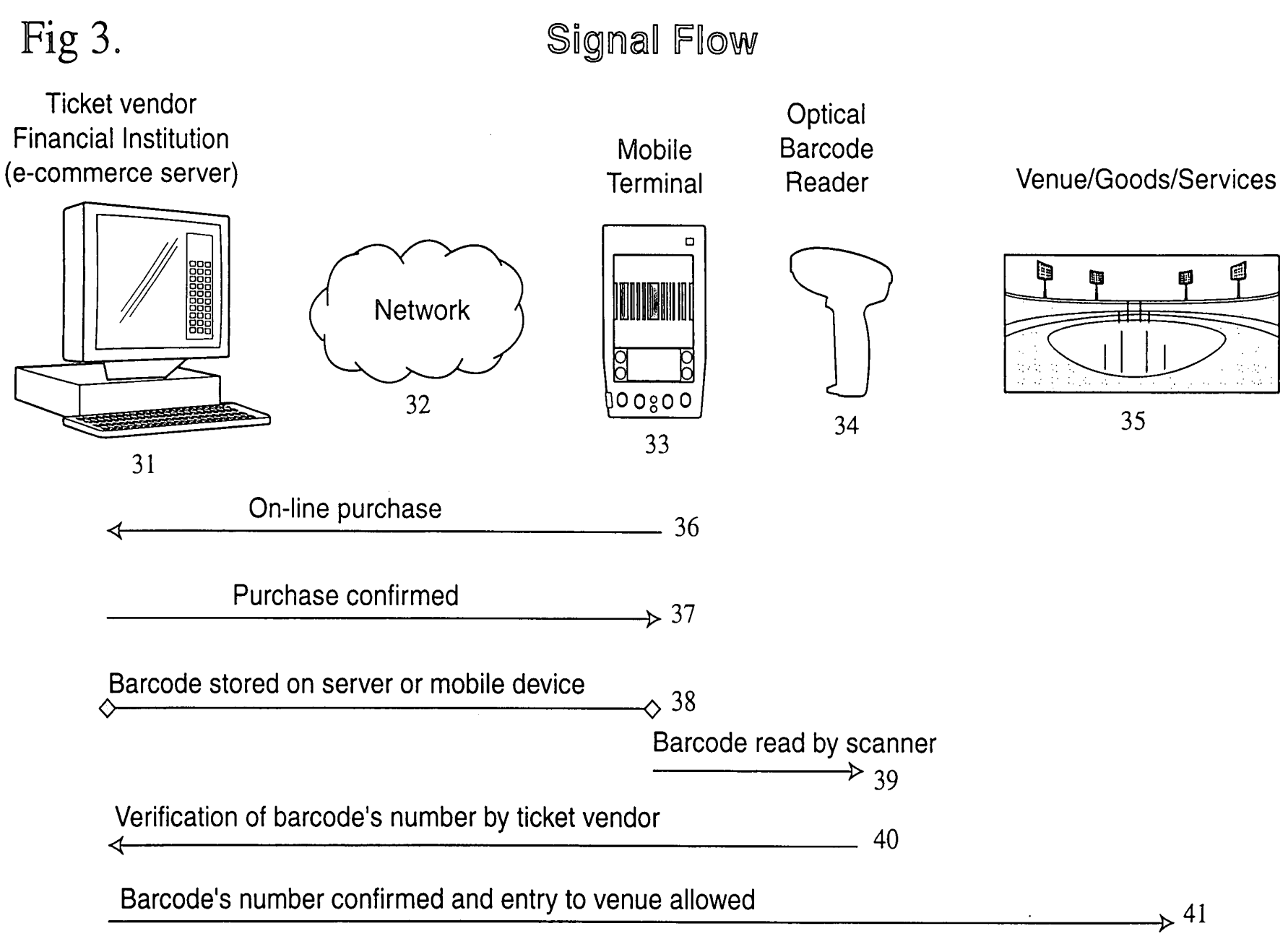


Fig 3.


Signal Flow
Ticket vendor
Financial Institution
(e-commerce server)
Network
Mobile
Terminal
Optical
Barcode
Reader
Venue/Goods/Services
31
32
33
34
35
On-line purchase
36
Purchase confirmed
37
Barcode stored on server or mobile device
38
Barcode read by scanner
39
Verification of barcode's number by ticket vendor
40
Barcode's number confirmed and entry to venue allowed
41